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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT,
MONDAY, MAY 3, 2004

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Torture directed by military intelligence officers -
Hurriyet
53-page torture report drafted by Gen. Sanchez - Milliyet
Coalition forces' disgusting torture of Iraqi women,
children - Sabah
Disgraceful torture photographs by British troops - Sabah
5/2
Intelligence officers encouraged torture - Aksam
British soldier torturers to be expelled from army -
Milliyet 5/2
600 American troops killed since capture of Iraq - Milliyet
5/2
Thomas Hamill's great escape - Aksam
US resolution to end embargo on northern Cyprus - Milliyet
US pushes button for aid to `TRNC' - Turkiye
Patriarch: Hristodoulos has gone too far - Aksam 5/2
Ten new members in EU; one day Turkey will join too -
Hurriyet 5/2
Likud members reject Sharon plan - Sabah
Foreigners attacked in Riyadh - Radikal 5/2

OPINION MAKERS

World is shaken by torture photographs - Yeni Safak
Saddam gone, now it's US torturers - Radikal
Torture the real face of Iraq invasion - Yeni Safak 5/2
Bush acknowledges war with Iraq not over yet - Zaman 5/2
US to enact law for `TRNC' - Yeni Safak
Prince Abdullah blames Israel for attacks in Saudi Arabia -
Yeni Safak
Europe celebrates historic expansion - Cumhuriyet 5/2
Archbishop Hritodoulos `quarantined' by Fener Patriarch -
Radikal
Israeli missile attack kills two Al-Fatah leaders -
Cumhuriyet

BRIEFING

Cyprus: A bill has been submitted to the US House of
Representatives by Congressmen Ed Whitfield and Robert
Wexler calling on the US and EU to remove economic and
political sanctions on the Turkish Cypriots. `TRNC PM'
Mehmet Ali Talat is due in the US on Monday as the guest of
Secretary Powell. Talat will meet with Kofi Annan and

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Secretary Powell, attend the annual meeting of the American

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Jewish Committee (AJC), and deliver a speech at CSIS during
his US visit. The White House is trying to convince Greek
Cypriot leader Papadopoulos to hold a second referendum on
the Annan Plan, according to "Hurriyet." PM Erdogan said
over the weekend that Turkey would not gain anything by not
recognizing southern Cyprus. Erdogan phoned US President
Bush and Russian President Putin on Friday to ask their
support in removing international sanctions on Turkish
Cyprus. "Cumhuriyet" is pessimistic that Ankara's efforts
for ending the isolation of the Turkish Cypriots will yield
positive results. The paper speculates that the situation
will get extremely complicated after the EU accession of the

Greek Cypriots. In a televised address to the nation Friday evening, PM Erdogan implied that Turkish Cypriot leader Denktas should resign. 'Politicians who have lost popular support should not continue in politics,' Erdogan has said.

Charges of prisoner abuse in Iraq: All papers, particularly the Islamist dailies, carried in detail over the weekend stories regarding the alleged torture of Iraqi prisoners by coalition forces. 'The occupiers' torture of Iraqis is a disgrace for humanity,' writes Monday's "Yeni Safak" on its front page. Fundamentalist "Vakit" says the photographs of American and British soldiers torturing innocent Iraqis have enraged human rights defenders worldwide. Just a few days after images of American troops mistreating Iraqi prisoners were published, another photo showing a British soldier urinating on a shackled detainee was featured prominently in most Turkish papers. The torture methods used by US and British troops are no different from those used by bloody dictators, claims Sunday's "Sabah." Turkey's parliamentary committee for human rights has announced that it will convene this week to evaluate the reports of torture in Iraq.

Fener Patriarchate cuts ties with the Greek Church: At an extraordinary meeting of 42 metropolitans affiliated with the Fener Patriarchate in Istanbul, the Patriarchate announced that all ties with the Greek Church have been cut for the violation of a 1928 Agreement and a 'lack of respect' for metropolitans in northern Greece. Last week Archbishop Christodoulos, leader of the Greek Church in Athens, appointed three metropolitan bishops without the approval of the Fener Patriarchate. The Patriarch claims that Christodoulos had no authority to make such appointments. Papers report that Athens is reluctant to interfere in the dispute.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq/Torture Claims

"And this is called civilization!"

Ergun Babahan declared in the mass appeal Sabah (5/3): "The US occupation in Iraq has turned into a war of insanity. The pictures about how US soldiers were treating Iraqi prisoners of war is beyond shame. These Iraqis were being tortured and humiliated only because of their country of origin. The irony is that such treatment comes from the occupying force itself. Looking at these pictures is enough to stand up in opposition to the war in Iraq. It seems that the US has started repeating what it did in Vietnam in the name of 'democracy and civilization.' . It will be very interesting to see how the current US administration can bring charges against Saddam Hussein for its crimes against humanity. What we have been seeing in Iraq is a manifestation of hypocrisy in the American democracy project. Events in Iraq mark a black spot in the history of humanity."

"Nobody is innocent"

Fehmi Koru observed in the Islamist-opinion maker Yeni Safak (5/3): "These pictures are clearly undermining Bush and Blair's arguments justifying the war. The world was given two main reasons for the war: weapons of mass destruction, and Saddam's support for the events of 9/11. One year after the war began, these two arguments have been proven completely baseless. Failing to find any evidence to prove these two pretexts, both the British and American administrations have come up with a third one: Saddam's brutality against his own people. After seeing these pictures in the papers, it seems that Saddam's brutality is amateurish compared with the brutality of the occupation forces, which claimed to be bringing democracy and civilization to Iraq. . American and British soldiers are not only guilty of abuse and torture, but they have also eliminated the third argument - Saddam's brutality - as a justification for the war. Instead, Bush and Blair have been turned into potential war criminals by the actions of British and American soldiers."

"War Crimes in Iraq"

Derya Sazak opined in the mass appeal Milliyet (5/3): "The Bush Administration is going through an awful test in Iraq. It is more clear now why Saddam Hussein resisted the US for years. Contrary to the first Gulf War, the wider world did not approve of the occupation this time. The Saddam regime was nicknamed by the Europeans as 'The Baghdad Monster' and 'the terrorist empire,' and was portrayed by the Western world as an enemy. .Moreover, the media had presented Saddam as a symbol of evil in order to render more acceptable the 'shock and awe' campaign. In the end, Saddam was only a

mirror. Those who have gotten rid of his regime today were the same people who had created him yesterday. This was a project based on violence and interests. Saddam wasn't a foreign monster who opposed modernization, but rather a monster created by modernization. Saddam has now left the stage. The US and British occupying forces are unable to defeat the resistance. Is it possible to maintain peace through torture, blood, and tears? One British soldier said, correctly, that he was 'fighting a lost war.' Isn't the image exhibited by Bush and Blair in Iraq even more scary than the monster in the mirror?"

"EDELMAN